

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1-35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, new claims 36-44 have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 26 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 19-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,581,971. Claims 32-35 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,906,397.

Claims 19, 21, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,174,606 ("Hure").

While Applicants do not acquiesce with the particular rejections to claims 1-35, it is believed that these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-35 and the submission of new claims 36-44. No new subject matter is added. A double patenting rejection is no longer appropriate.

In view of the amendments and reasons provided above, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Michael B. Lasky at (952) 253-4106.

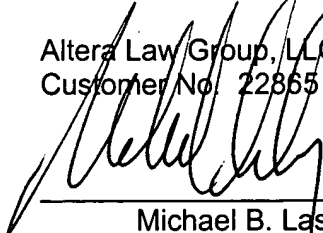
Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

7-28-01

By:



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